Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for agglomerating a poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid suspended in liquid mixture

which comprises suspending particles of the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid in a hydrophilic solvent or a mixture comprising water and a hydrophilic solvent, and

stirring the obtained suspension at a temperature not more than the boiling point of said suspension.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1,

wherein the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is a copolymer constituted of at least two species of monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-hydroxypropionate, 3-hydroxybutyrate, 3-hydroxyvalerate, 3-hydroxyhexanoate, 3-hydroxyheptanoate and 3-hydroxyoctanoate.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1,

wherein the poly- 3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is a copolymer derived from D-3-hydroxyhexanoate and one or more other D-3-hydroxyalkanoic acids.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3,

wherein the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is a binary copolymer derived from D-3-hydroxyhexanoate and D-3-hydroxybutyrate or a ternary copolymer derived from D-3-hydroxyhexanoate, D-3-hydroxybutyrate and D-3-hydroxyvalerate.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1,

wherein the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is produced by a microorganism, and separated and purified from said microorganism.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 5,

wherein the microorganism producing the poly- 3-hydroxyalkanoic acid belongs to the genus *Aeromonas* ~~Aeromonas~~.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the microorganism producing the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is *Aeromonas caviae* ~~Aeromonas caviae~~ or *Aeromonas hydrophila* ~~Aeromonas hydrophila~~.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the microorganism producing the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is a cell transformed by a gene in the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid synthase group, derived from *Aeromonas caviae* ~~Aeromonas caviae~~.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the microorganism containing a poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is *Ralstonia eutropha* ~~Ralstonia eutropha~~ transformed by a gene in the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid synthase group, derived from *Aeromonas caviae* ~~Aeromonas caviae~~.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1, wherein the particle of the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid is obtainable by, while stirring a suspension of a poly-3-hydroxy alkanoic acid-containing microbial cells,

solubilizing cell constituent substances other than the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid by adding an alkali simultaneously with physical disruption, to separate the poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic solvent is one selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ketones, nitriles, amides and ethers.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11,

wherein the alcohol is methanol or ethanol, the ketone is acetone, the nitrile is acetonitrile, the amide is dimethylformamide, and the ether is tetrahydrofuran.

13. (Original) An aggregate of poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acids which is formable by adhesion among poly-3-hydroxyalkanoic acid microparticles having a particle diameter of at least 0.1 μm and at most 1.5 μm.